

Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PM-03 DODE-00 DPW-01 AID-10 IO-03

EUR-10 L-02 RSR-01 /079 W
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R 090937 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2926

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10313

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON HIGHWAY 13 OPERATIONS

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON FROM BIEN HOA JUNE 8
REPEATED TO YOU

QUOTE BIEN HOA 0180

1. THE ARVN OPERATION TO OPEN NATIONAL HIGHWAY 13 FROM LAI KHE
BASE IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE TO AN LOC CITY IN BINH LONG PROVINCE
WAS BOGGING DOWN THE MORNING OF JUNE 8 DUE TO HEAVY NVA/ VC INDIRECT
FIRE. THE 31 ST RANGER BATTALION OPERATING FOUR KILOMETERS
SOUTHWEST OF AN LOC RECEIVED 96 ROUNDS OF 82 MM MORTAR FOLLOWED
BY A GROUND ATTACK BY AN UNKNOWN SIZE FORCE. RANGERS LOST ONE
KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED, WHILE NVA/ VC HAD THREE KILLED. ELSEWHERE
ALONG HIGHWAY 13 THERE WERE STRONG NVA/ VC REACTIONS TO ARVN
PROBES
NORTH OF LAI KHE AND AT THE DONG TIEN BASE NORTH OF CHON THANH.

2. ARVN USING FOLLOWING UNITS IN OPERATION:

A. THREE BATTALIONS OF 9 TH REGIMENT, 5 TH DIVISION
PLUS ONE TANK TROOP ATTEMPTING MOVE NORTH FROM LAI KHE.

B. 3 RD BATTALION, 7 TH REGIMENT, 5 TH DIVISION PLUS ONE TANK

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TROOP ATTEMPTING MOVE SOUTH FROM CHON THANH TO LAI KHE.

C. 2 ND BATTALION, 7 TH REGIMENT ATTEMPTING MOVE NORTH FROM CHON THANH TO AN LOC.

D. 31 ST RANGER BATTALION ATTEMPTING MOVE SOUTH FROM AN LOC TO CHON THANH.

3. FROM 0800 TO 1600 JUNE 7 THERE WERE 11 NVA/ VC REACTIONS, OF WHICH SIX WERE ATTACKS BY FIRE AND FIVE WERE GROUND ATTACKS. ARVN SUFFERED SEVEN KILLED AND 17 WOUNDED. NVA/ VC LOSSES UNKNOWN.

4. VNAF MADE ABOUT 30 SORTIES IN SUPPORT.

5. MR 3 CHIEF OF STAFF FEARS ATTACK ON WEST BANK OF SAIGON RIVER NEAR AN DIEN VILLAGE IN BEN CAT DISTRICT OF BINH DUONG PROVINCE, WHERE ALL VILLAGERS HAVE FLED. NEWSMEN HAVE BEEN BARRED FROM HIGHWAY 13 NORTH OF PHU CUONG CITY. ALTHOUGH SOME VNAF SORTIES PROVIDED IN SUPPORT 18 TH DIVISION IN EASTERN BINH DUONG PROVINCE, 18 TH HAS NOT YET ENCOUNTERED ANY NVA/ VC ACTIONS AS RESULT HIGHWAY 13 OPERATION. SIGNED WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE WHITEHOUSE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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